

Masahiro KISONO, S.N. 10/824,145
Page 8

Dkt. 2271/72197

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 23, 2007. Claims 1-14 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10-14 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and new claims 15 and 16 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are now pending, with claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 being in independent form.

Claim 5 was objected to as having informalities.

By this Amendment, claim 5 has been amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection to claim 5 is requested.

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In response, the claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

The rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a network terminal apparatus ... comprising a storing unit, an acquiring unit ..., a setting unit ..., and a transmitting unit... Independent claim 7 is similarly directed to a network terminal apparatus. Such network terminal apparatuses clearly have the requisite utility in the current information age.

Likewise, independent claim 14 is directed to a network system comprising first and

Masahiro KISONO, S.N. 10/824,145
Page 9

Dkt. 2271/72197

second network terminal apparatuses having the above-mentioned utility.

It is not understood why the Examiner deems such network terminal apparatuses not to constitute articles of manufacture. Likewise, it is not understood how a network terminal apparatus ... comprising a storing unit, an acquiring unit ..., a setting unit ..., and a transmitting unit can constitute descriptive material.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is requested.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Kayashima et al. (US 2003/0055939 A1).

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to an approach of sharing information amongst network terminal apparatuses connected via a network, wherein a network terminal apparatus can acquire setting information from another network terminal apparatus, and sets itself according to the setting information acquired from the other network terminal apparatus (and stores the settings information), and on the other hand can transmit the stored setting information to a third network terminal apparatus, after the third network terminal apparatus requests the setting information. Each of independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 14 addresses these features, as well as additional features.

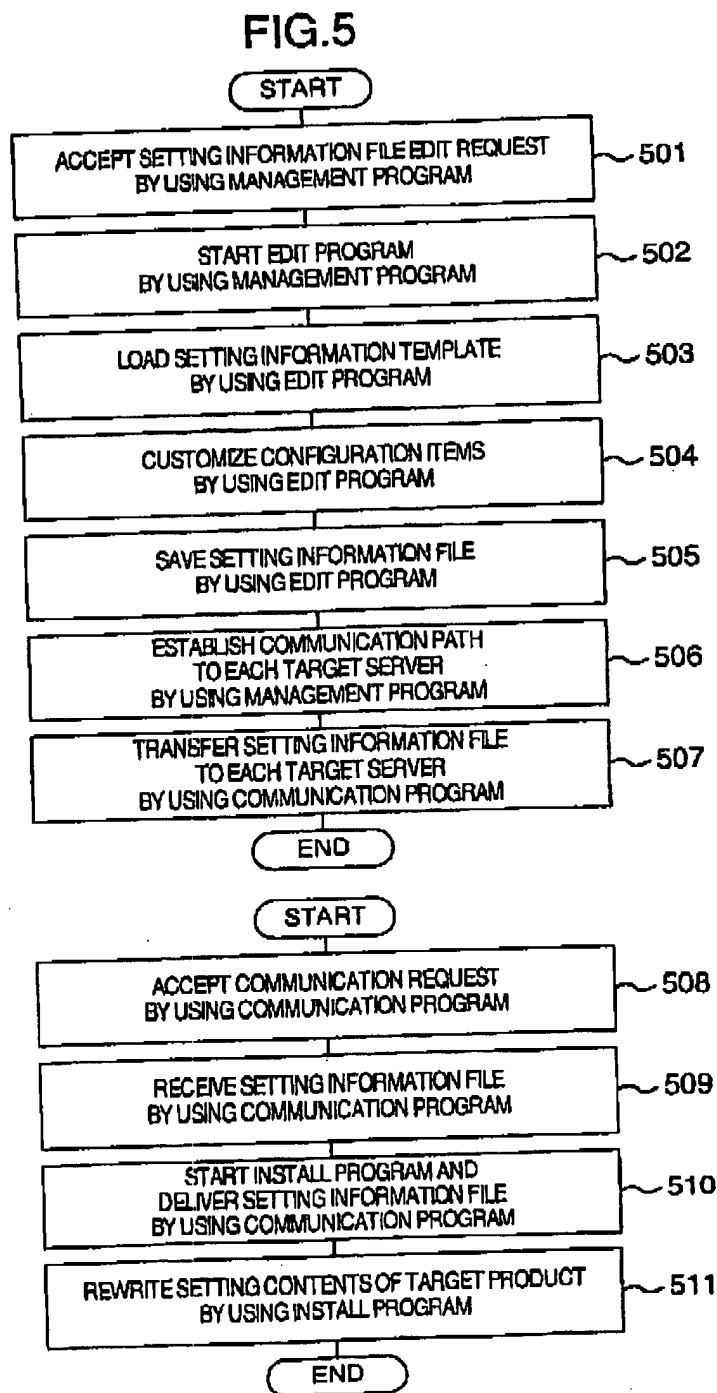
Kayashima, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for providing a security function in a network system having a plurality of target devices, wherein setting information files of the target devices are managed through a management system (server) which also includes an edit program for editing the setting information files and an install program for

Masahiro KISONO, S.N. 10/824,145
Page 10

Dkt. 2271/72197

installing the setting information files in respective target devices.

Fig. 5 (reproduced below) of Kayashima was cited in the Office Action:



Masahiro KISONO, S.N. 10/824,145
Page 11

Dkt. 2271/72197

Kayashima, [0053] through [0065] (reproduced below), describes the flow of processing shown in Fig. 5 of Kayashima:

[0053] In accordance with a request from a network manager, who is a user, the integrated management system conducts the following series of operations on the integrated management server 102:

[0054] reference numeral 501 denotes a step at which the management program 2042 accepts an edit request of the setting information file 2032 of the target product 2082 from a user;

[0055] reference numeral 502 denotes a step at which the management program 2042 starts the edit program 2043 corresponding to the target product 2082;

[0056] reference numeral 503 denotes a step at which the edit program 2043 loads the setting information template 2031 of the target product 2082 from the external storage device 203;

[0057] reference numeral 504 denotes a step at which the user customizes configuration items of the target product 2082 by using the edit program 2043;

[0058] reference numeral 505 denotes a step at which the edit program 2043 saves the setting information file 2032 of the target product 2082;

[0059] reference numeral 506 denotes a step at which the management program 2042 starts the communication program 2044, and establishes a communication path to each target server 103; and

[0060] reference numeral 507 denotes a step at which the communication program 2044 *transfers the setting information file 2032 saved at the step 505 to each target server 103.*

[0061] Furthermore, in the integrated management system, each target server 103 previously starts the communication program 2084, which accepts a *communication request from the integrated management server 102*, and conducts the following series of operations:

[0062] reference numeral 508 denotes a step at which the communication program 2084 accepts *a communication request from the integrated management server 102*;

[0063] reference numeral 509 denotes a step at which the communication program 2084 receives the setting information file 2032 of the target product 2082;

[0064] reference numeral 510 denotes a step at which the communication program 2084 starts the install program 2083 and delivers the received setting information file 2032 to the install program 2083; and

[0065] reference numeral 511 denotes a step at which the install program 2083 rewrites the setting contents of the target product 2082.

Thus, the management server 102 allows a user to edit a setting information file (based

Masahiro KISONO, S.N. 10/824,145
Page 12

Dkt. 2271/72197

on a template) and transmits the saved to a target device 103. However, the management server 102 initiates the transmission to the target device 103, that is, the management server 102 requests the communication to the target device 103. Further, the target device 103 does not transmit the setting information file to another target device. In addition, it should be noted that the setting information file is not used to apply settings to the management server 102.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art, however, of a network terminal apparatus that transmits a request for acquiring setting information to another network terminal apparatus, receiving the setting information from said another network terminal apparatus, sets the network terminal apparatus based on the received setting information, receives a request for acquiring setting information from a third network terminal apparatus, and transmitting the setting information to the third network terminal apparatus, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8 and 35-38, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is

Masahiro KISONO, S.N. 10/824,145
Page 13

Dkt. 2271/72197

respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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